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## MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

## INFORMATION

February 9, 1973

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

MR. KISSINGER

FROM:

WILLIAM L. STEARMAN *WLS*

SUBJECT:

Ceasefire Developments  
(February 9 - 4:30 p.m. EST)

The following is a report on current ceasefire developments in South Vietnam and on the present situation in Laos and Cambodia. This report includes information received from State, Defense and CIA as of 4:30 p.m. EST February 9, 1973.

VietnamMilitary

-- Military activity continues to be light throughout the country, with a few exceptions. In MR I, the Quang Tin Province Chief believes that the VC in the mountain areas have probably improved their position, as there are visibly more houses and rice paddies in VC areas.

-- In MR II, the problem of road interdiction has eased, although Route 14 to Kontum remains closed. Sharp fighting is reported between the VC and territorial forces in two coastal districts of Phu Yen Province. The South Vietnamese have opened additional sections of major highways. Some vegetable trucks are again rolling from Da Lat To Saigon.

-- Activity in MR III continued to be moderate.

-- In MR IV, the reported number of incidents has increased for the second straight day and is larger than the pre-ceasefire norm; however, this may be due to improved reporting. The focal points of enemy activity in the Delta continue to be Chuong Thien, Dinh Tuong, along the lower coast of Kien Giang, and along the Cambodian border in Chau Doc and Kien Phong.

-- South Vietnamese territorial forces are engaged in sharp fighting with the VC forces north and west of the Phu Yen provincial capital of Tuy Hoa. Three government battalions have been dispatched to the area to fill the gap caused by the departure of two South Korean regiments. Province officials have said privately they hope the truce teams will not arrive for another four or five days so that there will be time to clear the Communists from about 24 hamlets that are contested or enemy-controlled.

12/15/93  
under provisions of E.O. 12958  
by D. Van Tassel, National Security Council

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Ceasefire ControlFour-Party Joint Military Commission

-- The DRV element of the FPJMC deploying to Ban Me Thuot in MR II on February 9 was met by a demonstration of about 1,000 persons. According to initial reports, two DRV officers were slightly injured and two Americans were also hit as rocks were thrown. Anti DRV/PRG demonstrations have also been held in Quang Tin Province and reports of similar activities in other provinces are being received. Embassy Saigon has raised this matter with the Foreign Ministry, pointing out that such demonstrations will be interpreted internationally as indicating that the GVN is not living up to the agreement.

-- General Ngo Dzu, in a VN Press interview on February 9, accused the DRV/PRG of dragging their feet in forming their FPJMC contingents. Dzu went on to charge that the DRV is violating an agreement by discussing various FPJMC issues with the press. Dzu also denied that the Communist delegations have been deprived of food and pointed out that the GVN had formed its regional and subregional teams, while the DRV has not and the PRG is moving "slowest of all."

ICCS

-- No plenary session was convened February 8. The preliminary report on the February 9 session indicates that a number of administrative matters, including air service and procedures for point of entry sites were discussed. The third session of the secretariat planning group bogged down on the issue of staffing. The Poles and the Hungarians apparently object to the Canadian proposal to hire contract personnel to relieve the burden imposed by the 290-man ceiling under which the delegations operate.

Political

-- State reports that on the basis of available information, it seems fair to say that both sides, in their propaganda and, more importantly, in what we know of their guidance to the field, are emphasizing that the Agreement must be adhered to, at least overtly. Simultaneously, both are devoting much propaganda effort to show that the other side is violating ceasefire provisions. Both the GVN and DRV/VC are, of course, continuing to fight in violation of the ceasefire, albeit at a reduced tempo.

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-- President Thieu reportedly has suggested to a meeting of political leaders that it may be necessary to hold an election for a constituent assembly provided NVA troops are withdrawn.

-- According to articles in the Vietnamese press, President Thieu told a number of correspondents on February 9 that to date "there has been no ceasefire" and criticized the Communists for continuing the war. Thieu went on to charge that the other side had only listed some 4,000 GVN POWs, whereas they hold up to 30,000.

#### Economic

-- Embassy Saigon has reported that the ceasefire Agreement itself appears to have had minimal impact so far on prices except in so far as road interdictions produced a temporarily atypical supply situation. Prices in Saigon have risen only 7.2% since January 22 and road conditions affecting the operators markets generally are now good.

#### Reconstruction

-- On January 31 Vo Van Sung of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris reportedly told the Japanese Ambassador that Hanoi will insist on strictly bilateral post war foreign aid to North Vietnam.

#### Diplomatic

-- The government of the Netherlands reportedly is planning to recognize North Vietnam.

#### Ceasefire Violations

-- For your violations bar-graph, there were 31 major and 168 minor violations recorded during the 24 hour period ending at 0700 February 9.

#### Mine Countermeasures

-- Technical subcommittees of US/DRV mine countermeasures personnel met yesterday and are meeting again today ( 9 February ) as they continue to work out technical details of implementing the mine clearing protocol.

-- The USS Westchester County (LST-1167) has arrived and anchored in the liaison anchorage to serve as support ship for the minesweepers.

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## POWs

### US Prisoners

-- At the afternoon meeting of the PW Subcommittee on 9 February, the DRV announced that they would release their first U.S. prisoners on 12 February. They gave no specific numbers but stated that they would release one-fourth of the U.S. prisoners held in North Vietnam in this first phase. They further stated that 29 would be sick and wounded.

### Enemy Prisoners

-- The PRG agreed to accept, on 12 February 1973, 4,000 enemy POWs in the vicinity of Dong Ha airfield in Quang Tri Province, 1000 at Quan Loi and 2000 in Can Tho Province.

### Withdrawal and Redeployment of US/FWMAF Forces

-- From an in-country total of 23,458 U.S. troops on 27 January, 4,824 were reported withdrawn by 1600 EST February 9.

-- From an in-country total of 35,396 ROK troops on 27 January, 6,191 were reported withdrawn by 1600 EST February 9.

## Laos

-- The military situation in the southern panhandle of Laos continues to deteriorate seriously with the loss on February 8 of the important towns of Paksong and Muong Phalane. At least 4 new NVA regimental size combat units have been detected in the south.

-- In the internal Lao talks, Premier Souvanna reportedly has told the Geneva Co-chairmen that he plans to sign an agreement with the Communists some time next week and to implement a ceasefire the following day, February 13. In a series of secret negotiations with Pathet Lao Embassy Phourni Vongvichit, Souvanna reportedly has now agreed to an in-place ceasefire followed by foreign troop withdrawals within 30 days. The settlement also provides for a new tripartite coalition with both Lao parties naming 50% each of the third neutralist segment and subsequently the appointment of Political Council by the new government. The only major issue which remains unresolved is Souvanna's claim to Neutralist leadership.

-- MACV has reported that no new NVA infiltration groups have been detected entering the infiltration pipeline through the Laotian Panhandle since January 16. The 1973 infiltration estimates for South Vietnam and Cambodia remains at 22,000.

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Cambodia



-- Fighting increased in Cambodia with heavy new attacks against Kompong Thom and a limited resumption of U.S. tactical air support. The situation in eastern Cambodia has begun to stabilize around the Prey-Veng/Neak Vang area while enemy activity increased again along Route 2.

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